(b) if so, whether an Export Promotion Council would be set up for export of telecom equipment and US$ 10-11 billion investment in manufacturing sector in the next two-three years;

(c) whether his Ministry has set a target of 500 million phone connections by 2010; and

(d) the steps being taken to complete the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has granted approval for setting up of 'Export Promotion Forum' under the aegis to Telecom Equipment Manufacturers Association of India (TEMA) to promote export of telecom equipment and services.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Government is taking measures to facilitate all the operators to enhance their penetration. With the passing of the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Bill, 2006, it will be possible to provide USO support of provision of mobile services and broadband connectivity in rural areas. USO subsidy support scheme will be utilized for shared wireless infrastructure in rural areas with about 8000 towers by 2007. Measures are being taken to increase availability of spectrum including the release of substantial quantum from Defence.

Wimax pilot project

3073. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BSNL is planning to invest Rs. 1.8 crore on Wimax infrastructure in 10 cities/towns;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether BSNL has chosen Guwahati city of North-Eastern cities under WiMax pilot project; and

(c) the details of ten cities to be covered under WiMax technology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. BSNL has finalized a tender for WiMax systems. The finalized rate for procuement was 1.92 crores.The equipment has been received and one system has already been installed at each of the ten selected cities/towns. Guwahati was not included in this phase of ten cities deployment.

(c) The ten cities/towns selected are as follow:

Bangalore, Chennai, Kolkata, Pune, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad for urban applications and Hissar, Pinjore, Rohtak and Panipat for rural applications.

Racial attacks on Indians in Uganda

3074. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD:
SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of the recent racial attacks by locals in Kampala (Uganda) on Indian business community belonging to Saurashtra and Charotar region of Gujarat;

(b) whether India has lodged a request with the Ugandan Government for providing adequate protection to its citizens of Indian origin and their properties/business establishment;

(c) whether the racial violence has since abated; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Ugandan Government to prevent recurrence of such attacks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) Yes. Government have taken note of the recent racial attacks by locals in Kampala on Indian business community. It expressed concern to the Government of Uganda about the safety of citizens of Indian origin/PIOs and their properties/business establishments. It took up the matter with the Government of Uganda very strongly and also lodged an immediate request with the Ugandan